

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jonnie R. WILLIAMS

Serial No. 09/397,018

Filed: September 15, 1999

For: IMPROVED METHOD OF TREATING  
TOBACCO TO REDUCE NITROSAMINE  
CONTENT, AND PRODUCTS PRODUCED  
THEREBY



) Group Art Unit: 1731

) Examiner: Unknown

) Atty. Dkt. No.: 04859.84703

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 20 and amend claims 14, 15, 17-19, and 21-24 as follows.

14. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured tobacco suitable for human consumption obtained from the process according to any one of claims 1 through 13.

15. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco suitable for human consumption, substantially free of organic liquids used to extract expanded organic materials and having a content of at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine selected from [N'-nitrosonornicotine,] 4-(N-nitrosomethylamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, N'-nitrosoanatabine and N'-nitrosoanabasine which is [less than about] at least 50% by weight [of] lower than the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine in [conventionally] cured brown tobacco made from the same tobacco crop but which was cured in the absence of steps designed to reduce the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine.

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